

Dear Neighbor,

The 2009 Legislative Session has come to a close. As Co-Chairman of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I fought for and achieved passage of legislation that benefits patients, physicians and consumers. I am proud of these accomplishments and hope that you will take a moment to review the legislation discussed in this newsletter.

Please review the information about the Biomedical Research Fund. The Fund continues to make grants available for research into heart disease, cancer and other smoking-related illnesses.

As of this writing, legislators continue to meet in order to address matters that remain unresolved—the budget, major health care reform and other issues. Your calls and e-mails have been extremely important at this time; they help me understand your priorities and provide guidance for my deliberations. The outcome of this process will be discussed in a future newsletter.

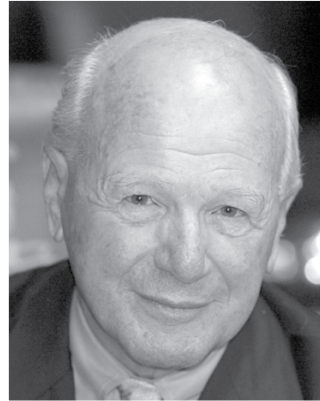
Sincerely,



State Senator Joe Crisco

Trails for Equine Use Preserved

Connecticut has among the highest number of horses per-capita in the nation. But equestrians have been dismayed by the decline in open space traditionally used for riding. We, therefore, passed legislation that requires the Department of Environmental Protection to preserve the following State Park Trails for equine use: Larkin, Airline, Hop River, Moosup Valley, and Natchaug State Forest, as well as any other trails recommended by the Equine Advisory Council.



State Senator JOE CRISCO

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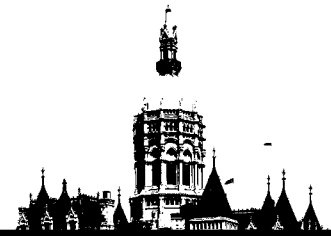
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State Senator Joe Crisco's Legislative Update



As Co-Chairman of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee I worked hard to expand health care coverage, enhance our health care system and protect consumers:

Breast Cancer Early Detection

Now, all mammography reports must include information about breast density. The requirement is necessary because mammograms may be limited in finding cancers in patients with dense breast tissue.

Autism Spectrum Disorder Insurance Coverage

We expanded group health insurance to cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. With the rate of autistic births growing, this legislation will help many families obtain necessary early interventions for their children.

Consumer Report Card on Health Insurance Carriers

What percentage of your insurance premium goes toward covering the costs of your medical services and supplies? Now, that information—known as the “medical loss ratio”—must be disclosed by each insurer and HMO to an enrollee, and must be included in the insurance commissioner’s annual health insurance consumer report card.

Biomedical Research Fund Continues

I am proud to report that the Biomedical Research Fund, which was created through legislation I introduced, remains strong. In 2009, the fund allocated more than \$2 million for research into cancer, heart disease and other smoking-related illnesses. Since its inception, the Biomedical Research Fund has distributed more than \$8 million in funding to Connecticut hospitals, medical schools and institutions of higher learning for these purposes.

Protecting the Health of Our Residents: Banning Bisphenol-A

Bisphenol-A, a chemical used to make polycarbonate plastics, has been shown to be toxic. We therefore banned the sale, manufacture or distribution of infant formula and baby food stored in containers made with Bisphenol-A, and also reusable food and beverage containers made with this chemical. The legislation takes effect October 1, 2011.

SPECIAL STATE FUNDING FOR BETHANY

I was pleased to make available state grants to help with local initiatives:

\$8,000 Town of Bethany: Veterans Memorial Park

\$5,000 Bethany Volunteer Fire Department

CULTURE AND TOURISM PARTNERSHIP GRANT

\$2,963 Connecticut Women’s Caucus for Art

FEDERAL AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)

\$41,117 Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant